

December 18, 2019

**Public Notice for Water Quality Certification and/or Waste
Discharge Requirements (Dredge/Fill Projects)**

Mays Canyon Road Bridge at PM 12.78 Repair Project

**WDID 1B190216WNSO
Sonoma County**

On December 13, 2019, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received an application from Stevan Hunter of the County of Sonoma Department of Transportation and Public Works (applicant), requesting Federal Clean Water Act, section 401, Water Quality Certification (certification) for activities related to the proposed Mays Canyon Road Bridge at PM 12.78 Repair Project (project).

Project Location

The project is located at the intersection of Mays Canyon Road and Highway 116 near Guerneville at Mays Canyon Road post mile 12.78, at latitude 38.486°N and longitude 122.9621°W. The project will cause disturbances to Pocket Canyon Creek, within the Lower Russian River hydrologic area (114.11).

Project Description

The purpose of the project is to repair critical bridge scour that is undermining the eastern bridge abutment. A concrete slab bridge approximately 33.1 feet long by 24.8 feet wide spans Pocket Canyon Creek. During a storm event in late February and early March of 2019, the bridge sustained severe scour, undermining its eastern abutment. The soil which previously supported the bearing weight of the eastern half of the bridge has been washed away, exposing three wooden piles. There is concern that normal high flows this winter could wash out the last of the bearing soil and cause the bridge to become unsafe or collapse. The project will restore adequate bearing support.

Construction will be conducted in two phases to avoid the risk of a storm event inundating the work site:

Phase 1 (the immediate action)

A 3-foot trench will be dug at the roadway side of the abutment. Four to six H-piles will be driven around the abutment. Additional cut sections of H-pile will be welded to the driven H-piles to provide a shelf support to carry the bridge load through the winter months. Drop cloths or tarps will be laid in the trench to catch debris from cutting, welding, and drilling. All construction debris will be kept from entering the water. Wooden lagging will be placed between the installed H-piles and the trench will be backfilled with the excavated material. The trench will be covered with traffic rated plates until Phase 2. Any remaining excavated materials will be hauled off site or

possibly stockpiled and tarped if useful to Phase 2. The duration of Phase 1 is expected to be one week.

Phase 2 (to occur on or after June 15)

The trench will be re-opened, re-excavated, and the wooden lagging removed from between the H-piles. Formwork will be constructed and lean concrete backfill will be poured to re-establish a bearing surface underneath the exposed abutment. Rock slope protection will be placed below grade around the bridge abutment. It will be infilled with excavated soil and replanted with native species to hide the RSP and help limit future scour. The duration of Phase 2 is expected to be 2-3 weeks.

Construction Timing

Phase 1 is scheduled to start as soon as possible to reduce the public safety issues associated with failure of the eastern bridge abutment. Phase 2 is scheduled to begin after June 15, 2020.

Impacts

The entire work area, including the excavation area under the bridge abutment is approximately 420 square feet. Approximately 100 square feet would be permanently filled with rip rap armor.

Mitigation for Project Impacts

The project is self-mitigating as the area of new rip rap that is not located under the bridge, approximately 72 square feet, will be planted with native vegetation based on a palette of species that are present in the surrounding area.

Other Agency Permits

The applicant has received authorization from the United States Army Corps of Engineers for Nationwide Permit 3, *Maintenance*, pursuant to section 404 of the Clean Water Act. The applicant will submit a Lake and Streambed Alteration Emergency Work Permit to California Department of Fish and Wildlife for Phase 1 within 14 days of commencing work and will apply for a section 1600 Notification of Lake or Streambed Alteration for Phase 2.

CEQA

The North Coast Regional Water Board, has determined that the following California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Categorical exemptions apply, 15269: Emergency Projects and 15302: Replacement or Reconstruction, and will file a Notice of Exemption with the State Clearinghouse concurrent with issuance of the 401 Water Quality Certification, pursuant to CEQA guidelines.

Public Comments

Regional Water Board staff are proposing to regulate this project pursuant to Section 401 of the Clean Water Act (33 USC 1341) and/or Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act authority.

The information contained in this public notice is only a summary of the applicant's proposed activities. The Regional Water Board's project file includes the application for certification and additional details of the proposed project, including maps and design drawings. Project documents and any comments received are on file and may be reviewed or copied at the Regional Water Board office, 5550 Skylane Boulevard, Suite A, Santa Rosa, California. Appointments are recommended for document review can be made by calling (707) 576-2220.

The Project is scheduled to start as soon as possible to address public safety issues associated with failure of the eastern bridge abutment this winter. Under Title 23, California Code of Regulations, Section 3858(a): "The executive director or the executive officer with whom an application for certification is filed shall provide public notice of an application at least twenty-one (21) days before taking certification action on the application, unless the public notice requirement has been adequately satisfied by the applicant or federal agency. If the applicant or federal agency provides public notice, it shall be in a manner and to an extent fully equivalent to that normally provided by the certifying agency. If an emergency requires that certification be issued in less than 21 days, public notice shall be provided as much in advance of issuance as possible, but no later than simultaneously with issuance of certification." Due to the nature of public safety issues associated with this project, the 401 Water Quality Certification will be issued during the 21-day public comment period. If you have any questions or comments, please contact staff member Kaete King at (707) 576-2848 or Kaete.King@waterboards.ca.gov within 21 days of the posting of this notice.

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